

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/696,114

Examiner

Calvin L. Hewitt II

Applicant(s)

KOBAYASHI ET AL.

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed 4-6-06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 124,126-128,130-137,139-142,144,145 and 147-171.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Status of Claims

1. Claims 124, 126-128, 130-137, 139, 140-142, 144, 145, and 147-171 have been examined.
2. Claims 124, 126-128, 130-137, 139, 140-142, 144, 145, and 147-171 have been examined are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The present invention is directed to electronic book publishing.
Systems for downloading and printing documents are old and well known. Saigh et al. (US 5,734,823) disclose a "book bank" network where a user can access a book database, select a book and download the selected book to a computer readable medium ('823, figures 1-3, 8 and 12). Ross et al. (US 5,465,213) disclose a customer placing an order for book and electronically conveying the order to sales personnel ('213, figures 1 and 2; column/line 7/65-8/10). Dreyer et al. (US 6,246,993) teach a book publishing system where books are ordered over a network, then downloaded and printed at a printing press

('993, abstract). More specifically, Dreyer et al. teach a first computer for placing an order ('993, figure 3, item 54; column 8, lines 50-58), a repository for storing book data and controlling printers that print the ordered book ('993, column 8, lines 48-51). Dreyer et al. also teach that image data can be entered to the repository memory via scanning ('993, column/line 8/63-9/11). However, the claimed invention differs from the prior art of Saigh et al., Ross et al. and Dreyer et al. because the claimed system comprises an image forming apparatus wherein the image forming apparatus comprises an input section with a copy mode and a book publishing mode. Where in "copy mode", the image forming apparatus has an image forming section internal to the apparatus for making a copy of a document, while in "book publishing mode", a control section of the image forming apparatus communicates with a data storage over a network, obtains image data of the ordered book and prints a copy of the ordered book based on the obtained image data. Yamaguchi et al., on the other hand, teach a copier that communicates with a www server for accessing a URL and printing a webpage. However, Yamaguchi et al. (JP11134125) a data storage section in which image data of a plurality of different books are stored. While a server is a "data storage section", storing a webpage does not read on storing image data of a plurality of books. Therefore, Yamaguchi et al. do not teach or fairly suggest, whether singly or in combination with the prior art of Saigh et al., Ross et al. and

Dreyer et al., a control section of an image forming apparatus communicating with the data storage section over a network, wherein the control section obtains image data of an ordered book (of the plurality of stored books) and prints a copy of the ordered book based on the obtained image data (Note: according to Yamaguchi et al. only the page could be printed and not selected parts of the page).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:
 - "Books on Demand: Printing Vies with E-Books at BookExpo America",
Edwards, Stephen E., The Seybold Report on Publishing Systems,
v28, n17, May 31, 1999
5. Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Calvin Loyd Hewitt II whose telephone number is (571) 272-6709. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, James P. Trammell, can be reached at (571) 272-6712.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
c/o Technology Center 3600
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 (for formal communications intended for entry and after-final communications),

or:

(571) 273-6709 (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through

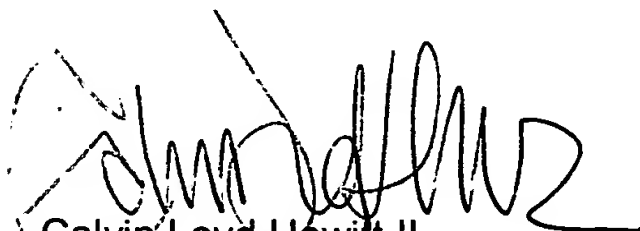
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Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see

<http://pair-direct.uspto.gov/>. Should you have questions on access to the

Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-

9197 (toll-free).



Calvin Loyd Hewitt II
Primary Examiner

May 5, 2006